Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 236687

43

ORIGIN DLOS-06

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CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06

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TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF GROUP AND COUNTRY ATTITUDES AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 236687

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER SESSION OF THE UN LOS CONFERENCE

BEGIN SUMMARY: ONE OF THE IMPORTANT FACTORS EMERGING FROM THE RECENT LOS CONFERENCE IS THE REINFORCED SOLIDARITY OF

THE GROUP OF 77, MOST ESPECIALLY EVIDENT IN THE COMMITTEE I (SEABEDS) NEGOTIATIONS. FUTURE PROSPECTS ARE THAT THIS SOLIDARITY WILL CONTINUE, AND BE REINFORCED. IT WOULD THUS APPEAR THAT PRAGMATIC APPROACHES BY THE US TO RESOLVE LOS DIFFERENCES WILL INCREASINGLY BE MET BY IDEOLOGICAL RESPONSES FROM WHICH G-77 MEMBERS WILL FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DEVIATE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT BY THE LIAISON TEAM WITHIN THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRD UN LOS CONFERENCE. THIS REPORT DIVIDES THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AS THEY TENDED TO LINE UP IN THE COURSE OF THE FIFTH SESSION DEBATE--THE DEVELOPED STATES VERSUS THE GROUP OF 77--AND ATTEMPTS TO ANALYZE THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE TWO BROAD CATEGORIES. WHAT FOLLOWS REPRESENTS THE COLLECTIVE OPINION OF THE DELEGATION'S LIAISON TEAM, WHICH REPRESENTED THE DEPARTMENT'S FIVE REGIONAL BUREAUS. ANALYSIS OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS WITHIN THE G-77 IS BROKEN DOWN SEPARATELY AT THE END OF THE REPORT.

THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE GENERALLY PRESSED INTO GROUP TACTICS IN THE FACE OF THE G-77 EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SOLIDARITY ON CONFERENCE ISSUES. WHILE THE WEO GROUP MET ONLY ONCE, THE EUROPEANS COALESCED INTO TWO, OR THREE, MAJOR GROUPS: THE EC-9, THE NORDICS, AND

THE QTE SOCIALIST STATES UNQTE.

3. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES:

THE EC-9 CAME TO THIS SESSION FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH A FORMAL MANDATE TO SEEK ACCESSION TO AN LOS TREATY BY THE COMMUNITY AS AN INSTITUTION. THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE EC-9 OR MEMBER STATES ON MAJOR ISSUES GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE U.S. POSITIONS--NOTABLY THE ACCESS SYSTEM. ON OTHER ISSUES, INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS WERE MORE PROMINENT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 236687

--THE FRENCH SUPPORT FOR AN QTE ANTI-MONOPOLY CLAUSE UNQTE IN DEEP SEABED MINING, THE SMALLER COUNTRIES' CONCERN FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISMS, AND THE IRISH CONCERN WITH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF MARGIN.

4. THE NORDIC STATES:

NORWAY, REPRESENTING THE NORDICS IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE, SOUGHT TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IF THE CONFERENCE HAD CONCENTRATED ON COMPROMISE TEXTS RATHER THAN POSTURED DEBATE. THE NORDICS WERE REPEATEDLY CITED BY THE G-77 AS THE ONLY INDUSTRIALIZED GROUP OF STATES WHICH RECOGNIZED THE QTE COMMON

HERITAGE OF MANKIND UNQTE.

5. SOCIALIST STATES:

THE UNITY OF THE EAST EUROPEAN STATES (EXCEPT ROMANIA) WAS NEVER SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED. ON MOST OCCASIONS, THE SOVIET UNION SPOKE FOR THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. THE SOCIALIST STATES TOOK THE PREDICTABLE LINE THAT STATE ENTERPRISES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO DEEP SEA RESOURCES AND THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE ACCESS TO FISH FOUND IN OTHERS' ECONOMIC ZONES. COMMON CONCERN WITH THE MECHANISM FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REFLECTED SUSPICION OF COURTS AND TRIBUNALS. THE DESIRE OF THE SOCIALIST STATES FOR A TREATY OFTEN RESULTED IN TACTICAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. AND EUROPEAN POSITIONS.

6. THE GROUP OF 77:

ONE OF THE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THAT HAS EMERGED FROM THE 5TH SESSION OF THE THIRD LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS THE REINFORCED SOLIDARITY OF THE GROUP OF 77. THIS

SOLIDARIDY WAS MOST ESPECIALLY EVIDENT IN THE COMMITTEE I NEGOTIATIONS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE G-77 CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO BREAK RANKS WHENEVER THE POSITIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES ARE ON PUBLIC RECORD. THIS WAS MADE QUITE EVIDENT WITH THE INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS OF THE SO-CALLED SECRET BRAZIL GROUP TO TAKE ANY CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 236687

ACTION IN THE FACE OF THE REVOLT OF THE GROUP OF 77
AGAINST THE RSNT ON COMMITTEE I. THERE ARE WITHIN THE
G-77 TOO MANY LEADERS FROM ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS SEEKING
TO ASSUME THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP OF THE THIRD WORLD,
AND THERE ARE TOO MANY INTERNAL OBJECTIVES AND EXTERNAL
AMBITIONS TOO WELL SERVED BY G-77 SOLIDARITY TO EXPECT
ANY OPEN SPLIT WITHIN THE LOS CONTEXTS.

OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST FEW YEARS, STARTING WITH THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1974, THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE G-77 HAS BUILT A BODY OF DOGMA, EMBODIED IN THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES (CERDS), THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO), AND THE LIMA PLAN OF ACTION FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION, APPROVED BY INDIVIDUAL STATES AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND WHICH, THEREFORE, HAS COME TO SERVE INCREASINGLY AS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR G-77 MEMBER STATES' ACTION IN ALL FORA, INCLUDING THE LOS CONFERENCE. THE RESULT HAS BEEN AN INCREASING COALESCENCE OF THE G-77 IN THE LOS CONTEXT, WHICH WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THE COMMITTEE I NEGOTIATIONS. THE FUTURE PROSPECTS ARE THAT SUCH COALESCENCE WILL CONTINUE, AND BE REINFORCED.

TO THIS END, THE G-77 IS CURRENTLY HOLDING IN MEXICO CITY A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONFERENCE AIMED, INTER ALIA, AT FORMALIZING THE STRUCTURE OF THE G-77. ONE OF THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOMES OF THE MEXICO MEETING WILL BE ENDORSEMENT OF THE CALL OF PRESIDENT BHUTTO OF PAKISTAN FOR A SUMMIT-LEVEL G-77 CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR TO PUT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE-LEVEL IMPRIMATUR ON G-77 MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DECISIONS. IT WOULD SEEM THAT -LE MANY US POSITIONS ARE PREDICATED ON THE POSSIBLE BREAK-UP OF G-77 SOLIDARITY, THE G-77 LEADERSHIP IS VIGOROUSLY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE THE G-77 AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL TO AVOID ANY LOSS OF SOLIDARITY SO AS TO PRECLUDE AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER'S SEEKING ITS OWN BEST INTEREST SEPARATELY IN THE LOS AND MANY OTHER POLITICO-ECONOMIC FORA

THUS IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PRAGMATIC APPROACHES OF THE UNITED STATES, SUCH AS THOSE EMBODIED IN THE OFFERS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS VISITS TO THE LOS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 236687

CONFERNECE, WILL INCREASINGLY BE MET BY IDEOLOGICAL RESPONSES ON THE RECORD FROM WHICH FEW, IF ANY, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE G-77 CAN BE EXPECTED TO DEVIATE.

7. LATIN AMERICAN ATTITUDES:

THE LATINS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN LEADING ADVOCATES OF THE G-77 CONCEPT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY IN PURSUIT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER; THEY REGARD THAT CONCEPT AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN AN LOS TREATY. THE LATIN TERRITORIALISTS, AND THEY NOW COMPRISE MOST OF THE IMPORTANT, NON-CARIBBEAN STATES, ALREADY HAVE WHAT THEY WANT IN THE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND THE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. FAR FROM BEING APPALLED BY THE PROSPECT OF U.S. 200-MILE UNILATERAL ACTION, THEY APPLAUD AND WELCOME IT AS LEGITIMIZING WHAT HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE LATIN CONTRIBUTION TO CUSTOMARY LOS. IT ALSO SHOWS THE G-77 THE LATINS WERE RIGHT.

THE ECONOMICALLY POWERFUL LATIN AMERICAN STATES, AMONG THE MOST SOPHISTICATED OF THE G-77, ARE LIKEWISE NOT FRIGHTENED BY THE IDEA OF DEEP SEABED MINING WITHOUT AN LOS TREATY. MANY OF THEM UNDERSTAND THAT THE TECHNOLOGY TO CARRY IT OUT WILL BE PURCHASABLE, AND COUNTRIES LIKE VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL, ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING WITH THE MULTINATIONALS AND UNAFRAID OF THEM, WILL PLAN TO BUY IN WHEN THE TIME COMES. THE WEAK LATIN STATES WHICH DO FEAR THE INDUSTRIALIZED STATES AND THE MULTINATIONALS CANNOT, PARADOXICALLY, SUPPORT A TREATY EITHER, BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID OF BEING BESTED

IN NEGOTIATIONS AS THEY HAVE SO OFTEN BEEN IN BILATERAL AND CONTRACT DEALINGS. THUS ECUADOR, IN DEEP ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TROUBLE AT HOME AND FUEDING WITH THE OIL COMPANIES, WOULD RATHER FULMINATE AGAINST US THAN NEGOTIATE.

THE STATES OF LATIN AMERICA ARE CONCERNED ABOUT UNI-LATERAL ACTIONS WHICH WOULD DENY THEM FISHING ZONES, AND COULD BE PERSUADED TO NEGOTIATION THEREBY. HOWEVER, EVEN THAT INCENTIVE WOULD NOT IN ITSELF CAUSE THEM TO CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 236687

SUPPORT THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ON OTHER LOS ISSUES.
THE CENTRAL AMERICANS AND SOME CARIBBEANS, USED TO CLIENT STATUS, WOULD SUPPORT US PRIVATELY, BUT THEY WOULD REALLY PREFER A REGIONAL PROGRAM SUITABLE TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS

BUT THE LIAISON TEAM ;-LIEVES THAT ALMOST NO LATIN STATE WILL GO PUBLICLY, ON RECORD, AGAINST THE G-77.

8. AFRICAN ATTITUDES:

THE AFRICAN PROFILE SEEMED SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN AT THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS. NONETHELESS, THE MORE RADICAL ACTIVISTS IN THE G-77 SUCH AS TANZANIA, GHANA AND SOMALIA CONTINUED TO MAKE THEIR PRESENCE FELT. KENYA AND NIGERIA PRESSED HARD FOR POSITIONS WE OPPOSE, BUT DID SO MORE FOR PRAGMATIC RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL REASONS. THE AFRICAN COASTAL STATES ARE FIRM IN THEIR VIEW THAT THE EEZ SHOULD BE SUI GENERIS OR AN AREA OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION AND THAT MARINE RESEARCH SHOULD REQUIRE CONSENT. THEY FOLLOW THE RADICAL G-77 LEADER-SHIP ON THE DEEP SEABEDS ISSUE, AND A NUMBER ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT THE SEABEDS HOLD OUT MORE HOPE FOR REWARDS THAN AFRICA'S RELATIVELY SMALL CONTINENTAL SHELF. THE LANDLOCKED-COASTAL STATE CONTROVERSY CAUSED MUCH HARD FEELING WITHIN THE AFRICAN CAUCUS AND THE OAU MANDATE TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL SHARING OF EEZ RESOURCES FOUNDERED BADLY. LASTLY, THE LARGE BLOC OF VOTES--43 IN ALL--THAT BLACK AFRICA REPRESENTS IS PROBABLY SOFTER ON MOST ISSUES THAN ANY OTHER REGION, AND FUTURE U.S. STRATEGY SHOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT.

9. ARAB AND INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT ATTITUDES:

WHILE THE ARAB GROUP HAS EMERGED FROM THE CONFERENCE AS A REASONABLY UNITED COALITION OF HARD-LINERS, THEIR UNITY IS NOT NECESSARILY BASED ON ANY UNIFIED VIEW OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL LOS OBJECTIVES BUT RATHER ON OTHER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. THE PETROLEUM

PRODUCERS MUST MAINTAIN A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE THIRD CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 236687

WORLD IN ORDER TO DEFLECT THE ADVERSE REACTION BY ITS OTHER MEMBERS TO INCREASING PETROLEUM PRICES, WHICH SERIOUSLY HURTS MOST OF THE LDCS. THE NON-PETROLEUM PRODUCERS AMONG THE ARABS HAVE BECOME STRONGLY, IF NOT VITALLY, DEPENDENT ON THE LARGESSE OF THE PRODUCERS TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC VIABILITY. THUS, WHILE EGYPT, FOR EXAMPLE, PRIVATELY WILL MOUTH SUPPORT FOR THE PARALLEL SYSTEM OF SEABED EXPLOITATION, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO DO SO IN ANY PUBLIC FORUM.

TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT STATES, WHICH ARE HARD-PRESSED TO MAINTAIN THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHILE PAYING HIGH PETROLEUM PRICES AND WHICH DREAD FURTHER PRICE INCREASES.

THE SUB-CONTINENT STATES ARE ALSO EMBROILED IN EFFORTS TO KEEP OR WIN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED AND THE G-77. INDIA'S HARD-LINE POSITION, ESPECIALLY IN THE COMMITTEE I NEGOTIATIONS, REFLECTED THAT COUNTRY'S DESIRE TO EXERT LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE G-77. THUS THEIR ACTIONS WITHIN THE LOS CONTEXT FREQUENTLY ARE MORE DIRECTED TOWARDS THAT OBJECTIVE THAN RESOLUTION OF THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE.

10. EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC ATTITUDES:

THE G-77 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC VIEWS ARE A PRE-DOMINANT INFLUENCE AMONG THE ASIAN STATES AT THE LOS CONFERENCE. COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA WANT A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THE G-77 AND THEREFORE SEE IT AS IN THEIR INTEREST TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THESE GROUPS. STATES WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED QTE MODERATE UNQTE, SUCH AS MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE AND OTHERS, CANNOT AT THIS TIME SPEAK OUT WITH ANY REAL EXPECTATION OF SUCCESS IN RALLYING OTHERS TO SUPPORT VIEWS OPPOSING TRENDS IN THE G-77. EVEN SUCH MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS AUSTRALIA. NEW ZEALAND AND JAPAN, IN PARTICULAR, OFTEN HAVE STRONG POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC REASONS FOR NOT FLYING IN THE FACE OF G-77 PROPOSALS. THE G-77 REPRESENTS FOR MANY OF THE POORER ASIAN STATES THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 08 STATE 236687

EQUALITY OF NEGOTIATING POWER VIS-A-VIS THE DEVELOPED WORLD. FOR THIS GOAL THEY ARE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH SOME OF THE MORE QTE RADICAL UNQTE STANDS. AND PERHAPS FOR SOME OF THE ASIANS THE LOS TREATY IS A MUCH

LESS IMPORTANT NATIONAL GOAL THAN MORE PRESSING ECONOMIC ISSUES.

ANOTHER FACTOR INFLUENCING ASIANS IN THE LOS CONTE-EXT IS THE IDEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL POLARIZATION BETWEEN CAPITALIST AND SOCIALIST SYSTEMS ENCOURAGED BY SUCH COUNTRIES SUCH AS CHINA AND NORTH KOREA AND SUPPORTED BY VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA AND OTHERS. THE COMMUNIST STATES MERGE THIS APPROACH AND TRY TO BLEND IT INTO POPULAR G-77 THEMES, SUCH AS THE NIEO. FURTHER, MANY ASIAN STATES ARE NOT YET CONVINCED THAT THEIR POSITIONS ON SUCH ISSUES AS STRAITS, ARCHIPELAGOES, FISHING AND OTHERS ARE REALLY SUSCEPTIBLE AT THIS TIME TO ACCOMMODATION THAY WOULD PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.

SUCCESS IN WINNING OVER SOME OF THE ASIAN STATES MORE TOWARD OUR LOS POSITIONS WILL REQUIRE DILIGENT BI-LATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PERSISTENCE COUPLED WITH A REDUCTION IN THE CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH OF MEMBERS OF THE G-77. ROBINSON

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